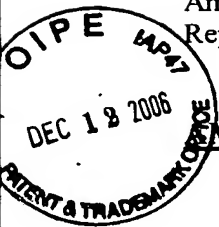


Appl. No. 10/554,710

Amendment dated December 12, 2006

Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2006



**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Figure 1. Figure 1 is amended to add reference sign 1. This sheet, which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

Attachment: one (1) replacement sheet

### **REMARKS**

In the August 29, 2006 Office Action, the drawings and specification were objected to and claims 1-10 stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

#### ***Status of Claims and Amendments***

In response to the August 29, 2006 Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification and the claims as indicated above. Thus, claims 1-10 are pending, with claims 1 and 7 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

#### ***Drawings***

On page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.83(a). In response, Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections. Amended Figure 1 now has reference number 1. Applicant believes that the drawings now comply with 37 CFR §1.83(a). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

#### ***Specification***

On page 3 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to for informalities and failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.71 and 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1). In response, Applicant has amended the specification as suggested in the Office Action.

Applicant believes that the specification is now correct and complies with 37 CFR §1.71 and 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1). Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112***

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to clarify the term

“therein”. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that each of the vanes has a longitudinal width in a shaft core direction that decreases.

Applicant believes that the claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants filed an IDS on August 25, 2006 before the mailing of the August 29, 2006 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request an initialed and signed copy of the PTO-1449 in the next communication.

***Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

On page 3-6 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 04-143525 (Nakamura et al) in view of Japanese Patent No. 53-89607 (Iwata et al). In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7 as mentioned above.

More specifically, independent claim 1 now recites a fan housing having an air suction port forming plate forming an air suction port and a step part. Claim 1 further recites an annular member that is accommodated by the step part. Independent claim 7 now recites a fan housing forming a vortex chamber passageway and an air blow out port passageway. Claim 7 further recites an annular member that is substantially aligned with a surface of the vortex chamber passageway or the air blow out port passageway. This arrangement is *not* disclosed or suggested by Nakamura et al, Iwata et al or any other prior art of record.

Nakamura et al discloses an air conditioning device with an air guide 4, an impeller 5 and a motor 6. As stated in the Office Action, Nakamura et al does not disclose an annular member. Iwata et al discloses an impeller 2 with an annular member 6 and an air guide 5.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2 of Nakamura et al, it can be seen that the air guide 4 does not have a step part. Likewise, referring to Figures 1 and 2 of Iwata et al, the air guide 5 does

not have a step part. Accordingly, the annular member 6 of Iwata et al is not accommodated by a step part.

Furthermore, referring to Figure 2 of Iwata et al, the annular member 6 is not substantially aligned with a surface of a vortex chamber passageway or an air blow out port passageway. Independent claim 7 requires that the annular member be substantially aligned with a surface of a vortex chamber passageway or an air blow out port passageway. Accordingly, the prior art of record lacks any suggestion or expectation of success for combining the patents to create the Applicant's unique centrifugal fan.

Moreover, Applicant believes that dependent 2-6 and 8-10 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 1, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claim 1, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

#### ***Prior Art Citation***

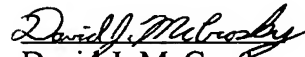
In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicant believes that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

\* \* \*

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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